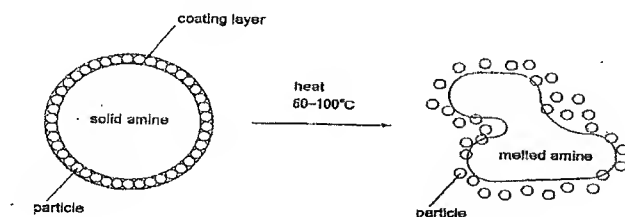


REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 11, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Maeda in view of Karkozov. In particular, the Examiner alleges that, while Maeda fails to disclose or suggest the recited aromatic amine compound having a benzoxazole structure, it would have been obvious to include Karkozov's APBO in Maeda's composition to arrive at the claimed invention (Action, page 2, line 15, and page 3, line 2). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In response to applicants' statement that the combination of Maeda and Karkozov would render Maeda's invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, the Examiner alleges that the melting point of Maeda's amine is not important because "it is not the melting of the solid amine that starts the curing reaction, but the surface coating on the amine (col. 1 lls. 50-60). The amine does not need to be melted in order for the composition to cure." (Action, p. 3, lls. 33-40).

The Examiner has misunderstood column 1, lines 50-60, of Maeda. That paragraph of Maeda is stating that the curing of the composition starts, not by the melting of the fine particle coatings, but by the loss of the base support for the fine particles caused by the melting of the amine. Maeda's fine particles for coating are comprised of inorganic or polymeric compounds and do not melt under the curing condition of 60° to 100°C x 100 min. The melting first takes place with the solid amine, causing the surface coating particles to lose their base support and to collapse.¹ Applicants include a figure describing the process below.



¹ Inspecting WO 95/26374 published in Japanese which has matured into Maeda et al. (USP 5,866,668) supports this view. The underlined passage of page 2, lines 4 and 5, of WO 95/26374, in the attached document reads "the surface-coated solid amine is melted by heating to appear an active amino group."

Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the melting point of the solid amine is important for the low-temperature curability of Maeda's composition. Maeda clearly discloses 60°C to 100°C as its curing temperature (Maeda, col. 4, l. 2, Maeda), while Karkozov's APBO has a melting point in the range of 228-232°C (Karkozov, English translation, p. 3, l. 14). Accordingly, substituting Karkozov's APBO for Maeda's amine compound would render Maeda's composition unsatisfactory for its intended purpose by producing a composition that does not cure in the disclosed temperature range. In fact, it is uncertain whether the resulting mixture would be any useful curable composition. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, the combination of Karkozov's APBO and Maeda's isocyanate-group-containing composition is not the claimed invention. As the Examiner is aware, polymers are generally classified by the polymeric linkage formed during their polymerization. In the claimed curable composition, an epoxy group of the recited compound having two or more epoxy groups reacts with an amine group of the recited aromatic amine compound to form a cured product. On the other hand, Maeda's composition includes a polyisocyanate compound and/or a urethane prepolymer as the main active component (A). An epoxy resin is optionally mixed into Maeda's composition to induce a three dimensionalization action in a limited proportion (0-15 parts by weight per 100 parts of the isocyanate component (A), Maeda, col. 4, lls. 26-34). According to Maeda, Maeda's fine particle-coated amines primarily "act as a curing agent for the above mentioned isocyanate component (A)" (Maeda, col. 3, lls. 48-49), the polymeric linkage primarily formed by Maeda's amine group being that between an isocyanate end group and an amine group. If Karkozov's APBO were used in place of Maeda's fine particle coated amine compound, if Karkozov's APBO were to react at all, it would primarily react with an isocyanate end group of component (A) of Maeda's composition, producing a polymeric linkage that is quite different from that of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the combination of Maeda and Karkozov is not the claimed invention, and this rejection should be withdrawn for this additional reason.

Further, the Examiner alleges that, because Maeda's composition includes an epoxy compound, whether or not there are other components in Maeda's composition is unimportant as the same reaction would take place in both Maeda and the claimed invention (Action, p. 4, lls. 3-6). This is incorrect. As stated above, the main component of Maeda's composition is the active isocyanate compound, not an epoxy compound as in the claimed composition. Maeda's amine group primarily reacts with an isocyanate group. As stated above, the epoxy compound is merely an optional component, present at most in the proportion of 0-15 parts by weight to 100 parts of the isocyanate component (A) (Maeda, col. 4, lls. 26-34). Thus, the cured product obtained from Maeda's composition is quite different from that obtained from the claimed curable composition. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **Docket No. 358362011200**.

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